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IDENTIFIERS	*Makah (Language)

ABSTRACT

The book presents the Makah alphabet decided upon in a public workshop held by the Makah Language Program in 1978, before which there was no standard Makah orthography. The 10 vowels and 34 consonants of the alphabet are presented in relation to English sounds. The book groups vowels sounds together but devotes a page to each consonant telling how to produce the sound and giving a series of words containing the sound and the English equivalent of the words. Each page is illustrated with bold black, white, and red drawings. The book contains an English-Makah vocabulary of 165 words. (SB)

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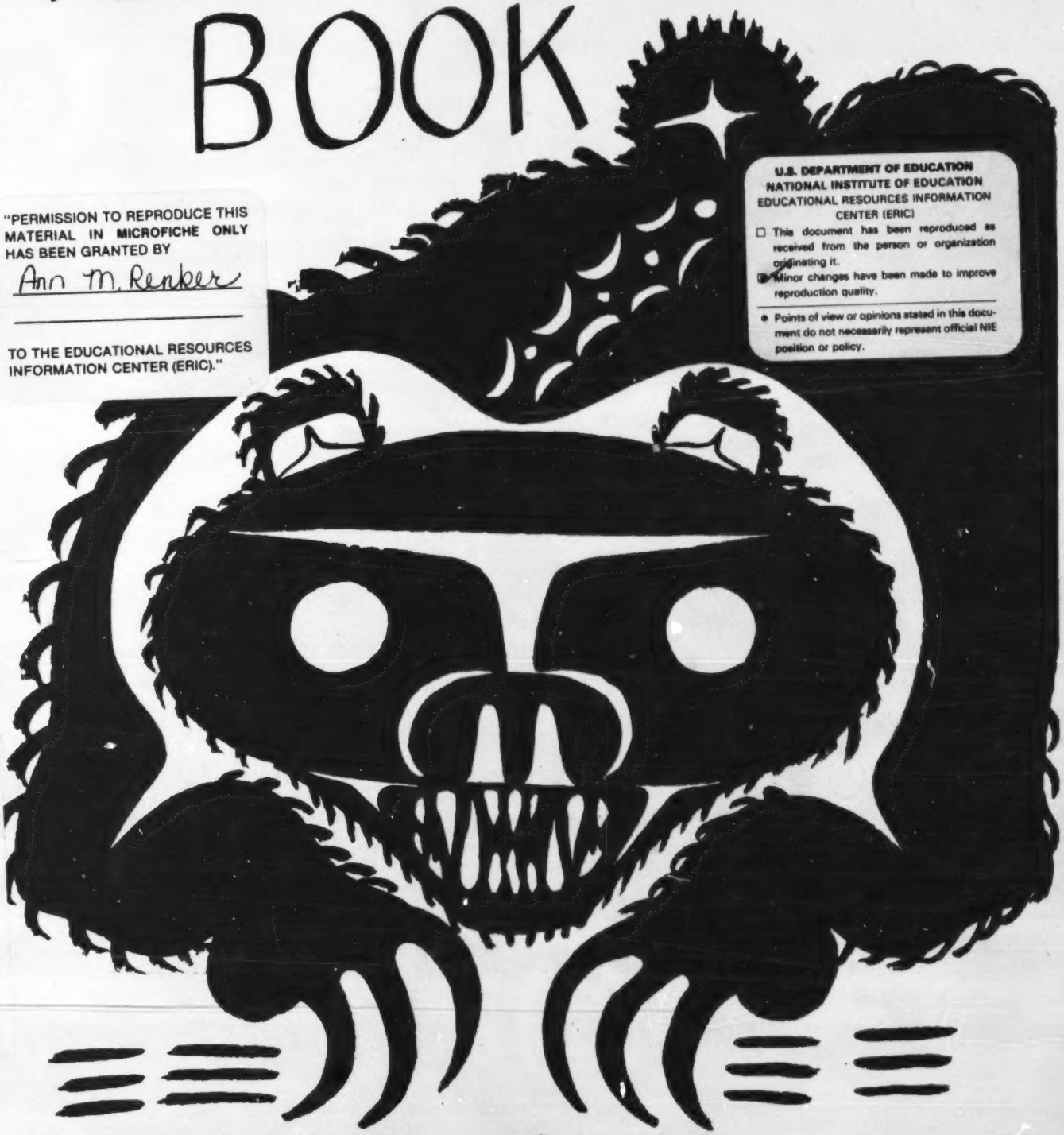
MAKAH ALPHABET BOOK



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RC014280

MAKAH ALPHABET BOOK

prepared by

The Makah Language Program

Makah Cultural and Research Center

1978-1979

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Illustrated by Scott Tyler and Chris Walsh

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FOREWORD

The alphabet presented in this book was decided on in a public workshop held by the Makah Language Program in the summer of 1978. Until that time there was no standard orthography for Makah. It is the hope of the Language Program that this system will be accepted as the most accurate and efficient system to use in writing Makah and will therefore be accepted as the standard writing system.

Writing systems similar to this one are used for most of the northwestern languages, including the other languages of the Nootkan family, Nitinaht and Nootka.

The people of the program would like to acknowledge the many elders of the Makah tribe who were the source of this knowledge. We would also like to recognize Dr. William H. Jacobsen, Jr. who has taken the path of researching Makah before us and is now helping us along the way. He was the first to use this alphabet for Makah and many of the words in this book come from his research. Finally we thank the National Endowment for the Humanities which has been our main source of financial support.

August, 1979

Hildred Ides
Arlington Flinn
Edith McCarty
Sheela McLean

MAKAH VOWELS

a sounds like the u in bus, mutt.
ba?as (house), čapac (canoe)

a· sounds like the a in far, father.
ba·ck̓a·d (fly), k̓a·dis (wild onion)

e sounds like the e in set, left.
cikyey (elderberry), we?lč (sleeping)

e· sounds like the a in ant.
čape·?i (heart), ?atkse·?i (wood)

i sounds like the i in bit, sit.
čibičibi (mouse, rat), q̓išа (smoke)

i· sounds like the ee in bee, feet.
q̓idiƛ (dog), wi·qsi (wind)

o sounds like the o in sore.
dač?oɬ (seeing), bakowas (store)

o· sounds like the o, only it is held longer.
lišo·l (shawl), q̓uso·ti (stomach)

u sounds like the oo in hook, took.
tupkuk (black), huktu·p (bird)

u· sounds like the oo in loon, moon.
cu·ccu·c (scratching), čibu·d (halibut hook)

The English sounds represented above are not exactly equivalent to the Makah sounds. This listing is meant only to give you a rough idea of what the Makah vowels are like.

Remember that the dot (·) after a vowel means basically that the vowel is held for a longer time.

MAKAH ALPHABET

Here are the letters of the Makah alphabet. Read them by row, not by column.

VOWELS

a	a·	e	e·	i	i·	o
o·	u	u·				

CONSONANTS

ʔ	b	c	ć	č	čˀ	d
h	k	kˀ	kʷ	kˀʷ	l	ɬ
m	mˀ	m	n	p	pˀ	q
qˀ	qʷ	qˀʷ	s	š	t	tˀ
w	x	xˀ	xʷ	xˀʷ	y	

Notes—

A dot (·) after a vowel shows that the vowel is long.

A glottal mark (ˀ) above a consonant indicates that the consonant is glottalized, that is, pronounced with a glottal pop.

A raised w (ʷ) indicates that the consonant is pronounced with rounded lips.

Emphasis in Makah falls on the first syllable unless the vowel in that syllable is short—then the emphasis falls on the second syllable.

Any consonant which can be rounded which follows a u or a u· is rounded, although it is not spelled that way. For example 'owl' is actually pronounced 'tukʷtukʷadi' but is spelled 'tuktukadi'.

ʔ represents a glottal stop. It is the movement in the throat used by English speakers when they say "uh-uh", indicating "no". You can practice this movement by saying the vowel sound "ah" and making the sound stop and start, moving only your throat.

ʔada·k

fire

Here are some Makah words beginning with ʔ

ʔiki (son)

ʔakwati·d (eagle)

ʔaha·ha (chicken)

ʔapta (hiding)

The symbol b represents the same sound in both Makah and English. It is the b of ball, bat, and bee.

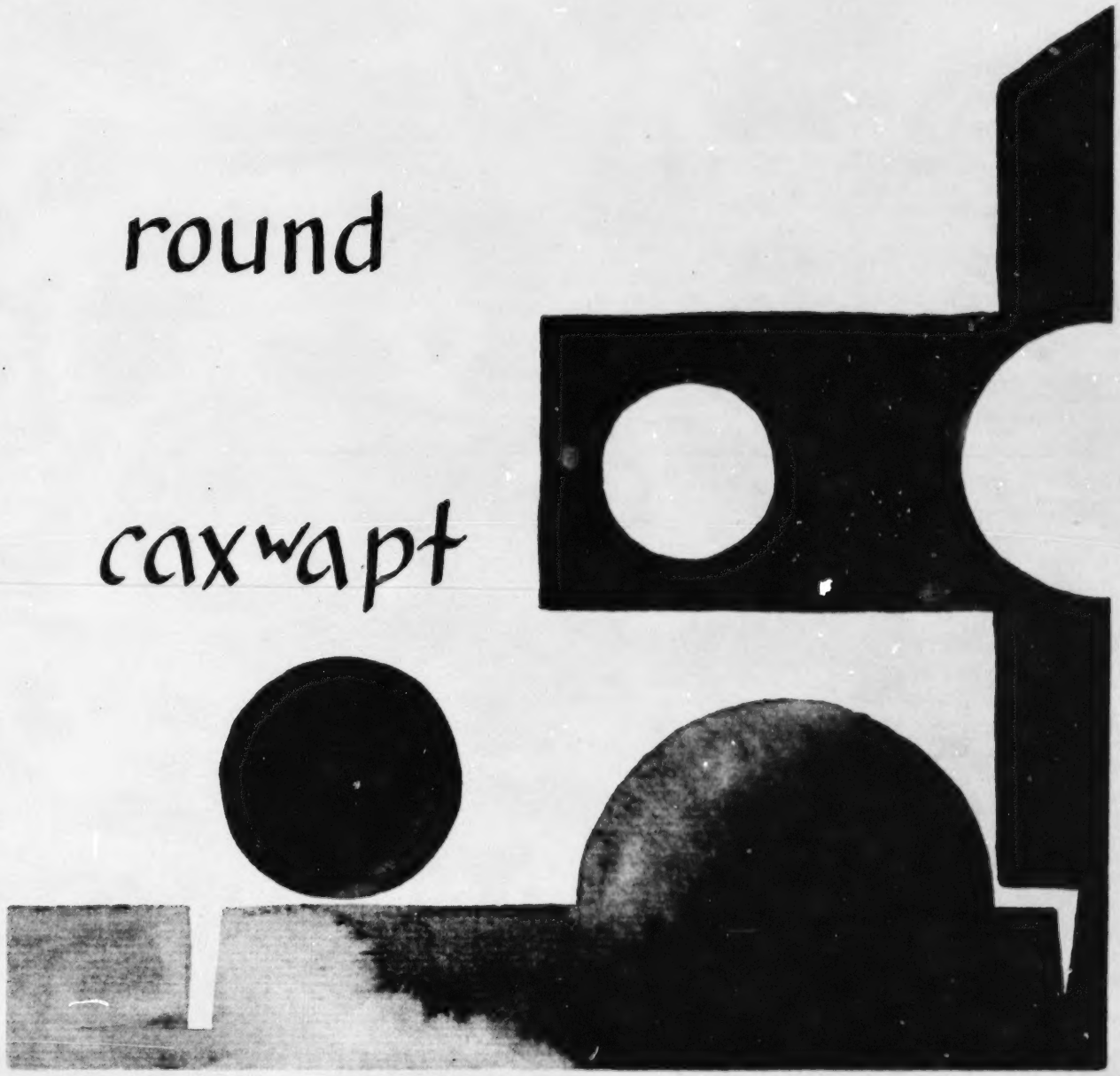
Here are some Makah words beginning with b :

bistati	(bow)	bu·sbu·s	(cow)
babuyak	(work)	buta-s	(short hair)

This letter, c, indicates a sound completely different from the c in English. It represents the sound that you get by pronouncing t and s together as one sound, as in cats, boats or hats.

round

caxʷapt



Here are some Makah words beginning with this c :

cu·ccu·c (scratching)	cuba (full)
cu·wit (coho salmon)	cikyey (elderberry)

This letter, ċ̓, is called a glottalized c. Once again it is like t and s pronounced together, but ċ̓ has a simultaneous catch in the throat, a glottal stop which is released right after the c, giving the sound an explosive effect.

ċ̓i·t'ku·ʔ

dolphin

Here are some Makah words to practice the ċ̓ with :

ċ̓aqwa·ʔaq	(one)	ċ̓ibiċ̓ibi	(mouse)
ċ̓aqwa·sub	(nine)	ċ̓i·kċ̓i·k	(wagon)

The wedge c, č, stands for a completely different sound than either c or ć. This letter is equivalent to ch in English and represents the first sound in the words chowder, child or chat.

Here are some practice words :

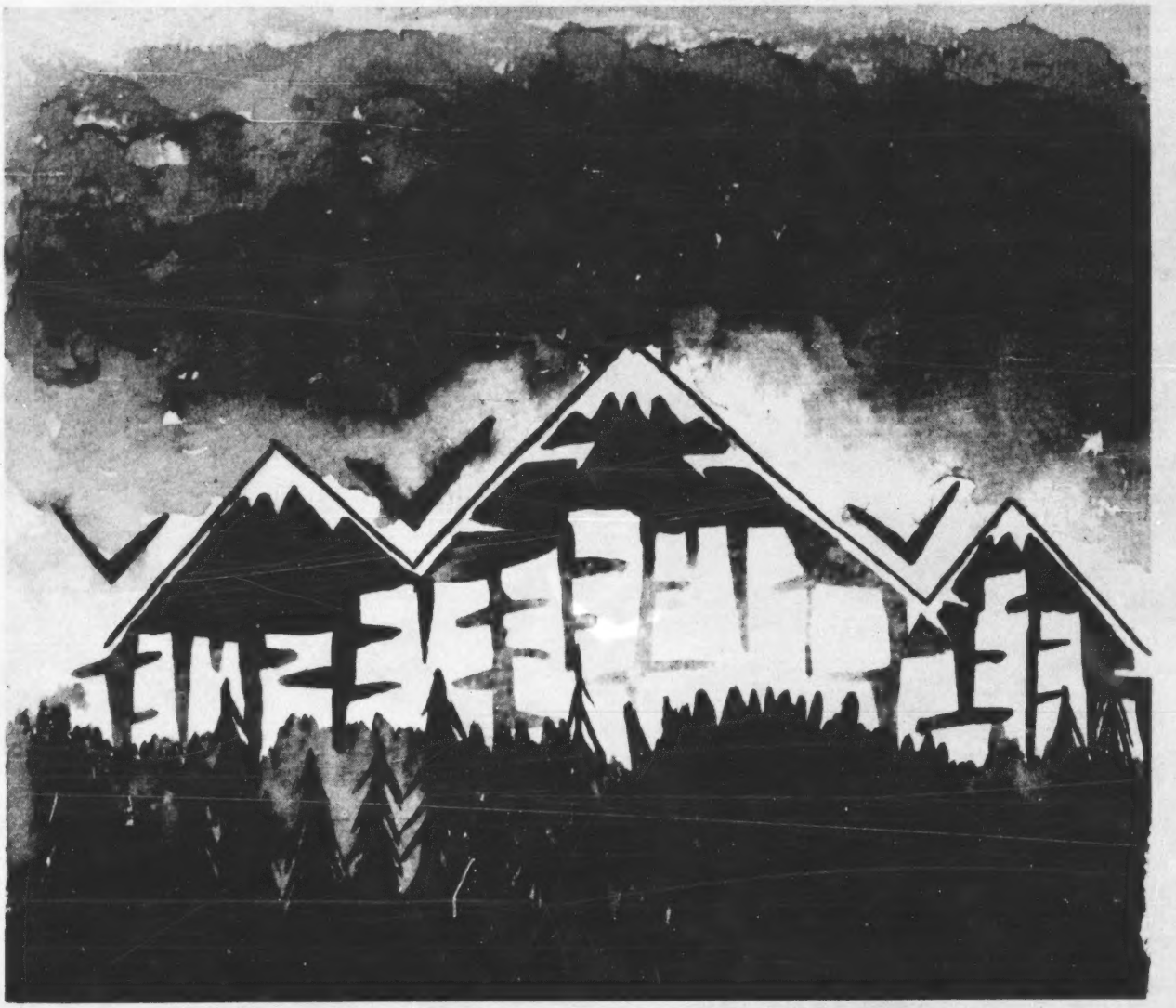
čabas	(sweet)	čí·tčí·t	(sawing)
čibu·d	(halibut hook)	čaba·cpa	(right side)

This is a glottalized wedge c: č̓. Once again we have the English ch sound but glottalized, that is, pronounced with the extra emphasis of a released glottal stop.

These are Makah words beginning with č̓ :

č̓i·ta	(digging clams)	č̓apac	(canoe)
č̓aʔak	(water)	č̓iʔic	(butter clam)

The letter d stands for the same sound in both English and Makah. It is the first and last sound of the words dad and deed.



dučiʔi mountain

Makah practice words :

dudu·k (singing)	di·ya (Neah Bay)
daka (sun/moon)	di·ċ (short)

This letter indicates a sound very similar to the h in the English alphabet as heard in the words he, here and hats.

hitakʷad

bow of canoe

Makah words to practice with :

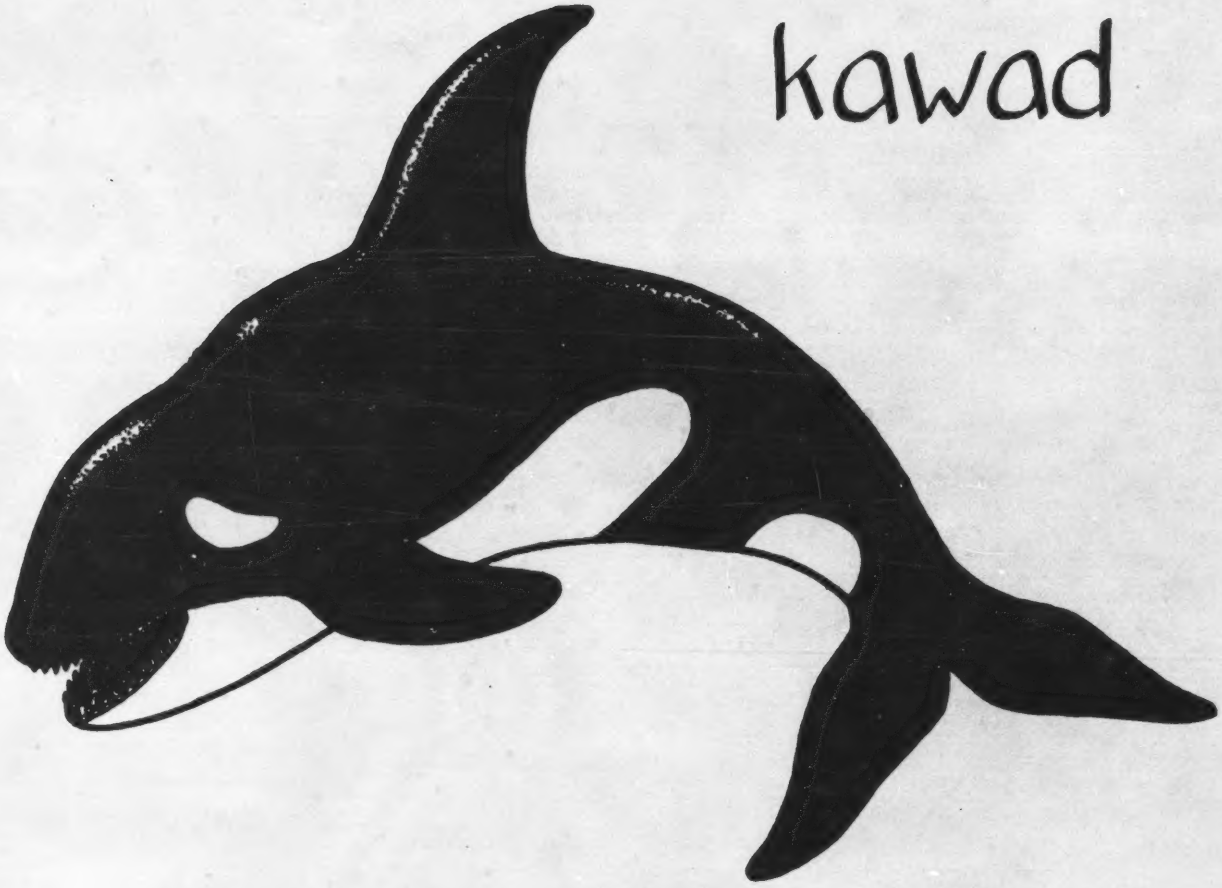
huktu-p (bird)

haʔuk (eating)

ha-ha-ċic (running)

hiti-d (blanket)

This ḵ symbolizes the k sound like in the English words ḵeep, ḵelp, and ḵin.



kawad

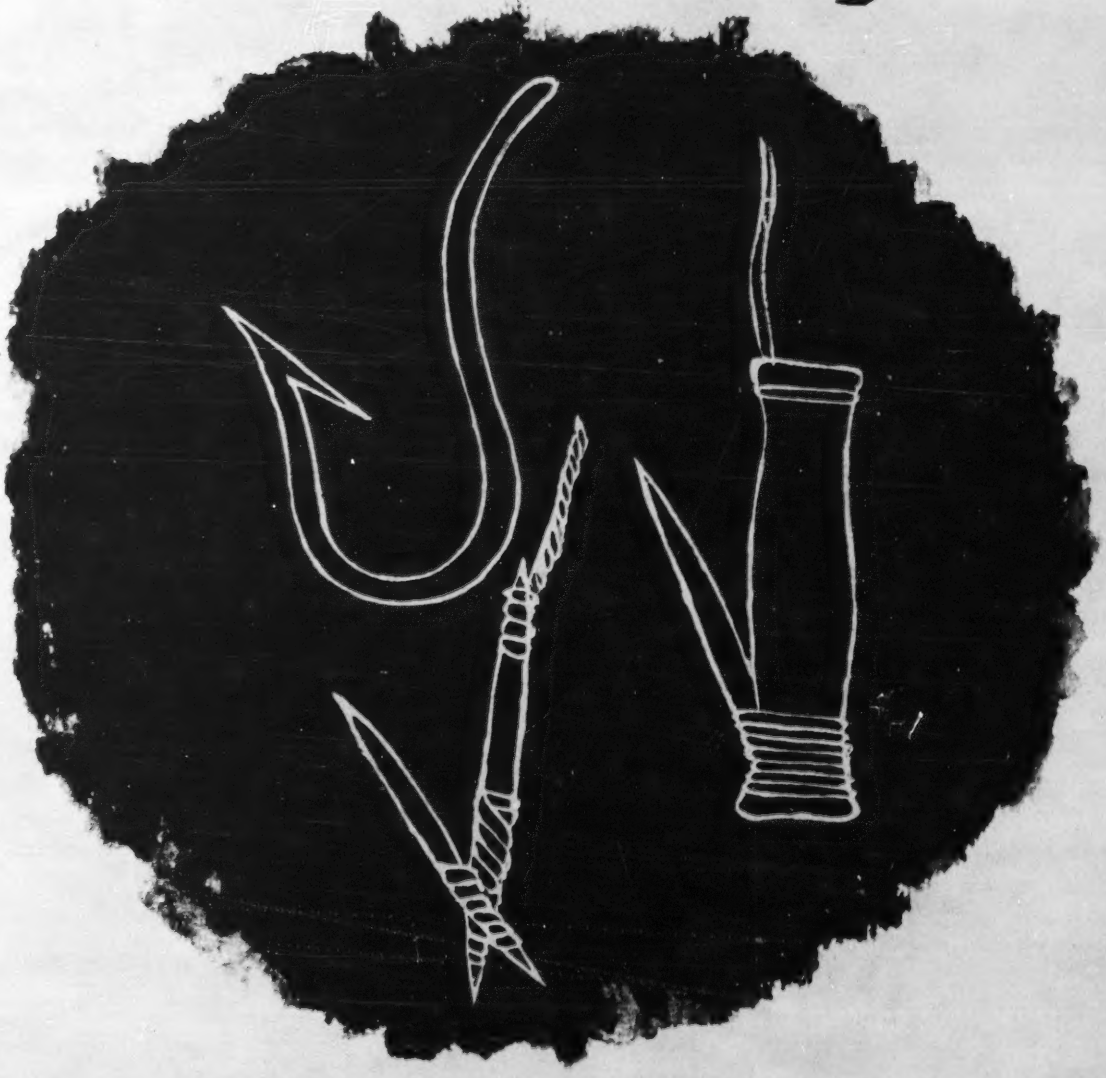
killer whale

Makah practice words :

kala·kalĭ	(ankle)	kiwta·l	(horse)
ku·wi·yik	(thief)	kaca·yak	(little snake)

This is a glottalized k; k̓. It has the same k sound as before, but with the glottal or explosive effect mentioned earlier.

hook ḳuyak



Here are some Makah words beginning with k̓ :

ḳatuk	(whale or seal oil)	ḳuyak	(fish hook)
ḳaḳa-bakdukub	(ring)	ḳa?ak	(ashamed)

The rounded k, k^{w} is simply a k sound, as in English, only made with the lips rounded, much like the qu in quick.

Here are some Makah words beginning with k^{w}:

k^{w}a-?ap	(bending over)	k^{w}a-ta	(quarter-25¢)
k^{w}a-dis	(wild onion)	k^{w}a-?uk	(backing up)

This letter is a glottalized rounded k: k̓ʷ. It shows basically the same sound as before, like the qu in quick, but with glottal emphasis.

Remember the qu with the emphasis while saying :

k̓ʷɪsɪ	(snow)	k̓ʷa·čɪb	(poor boy)
k̓ʷak̓ʷəqχɪ	(porpoise)	ɬak̓ʷas	(gills)

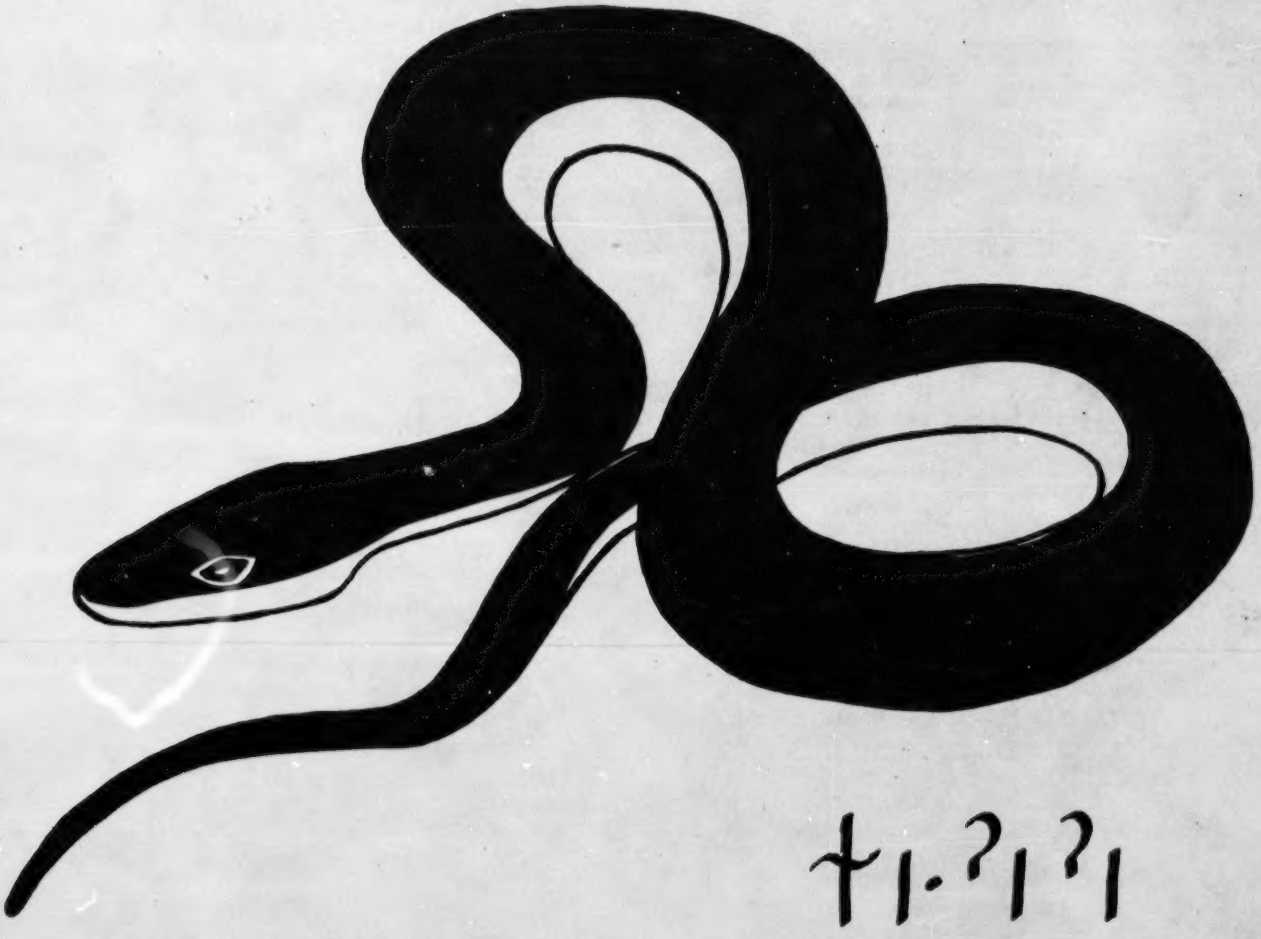
This letter l, like the l of the English alphabet, represents the first sound of the words long, let and leap.

Here are some Makah words beginning with l :

laka-yak	(tongue)	lakčuk	(light)
lakča-la-kč	(lightning)	libi-tu	(lamb)

This is a barred l: ƛ. The sound this letter represents can be made by pronouncing s while holding your tongue in the position for saying an l.

snake



ƛi·ʔiʔi

Here are some Makah words beginning with ƛ :

ƛicitub (rug)	ƛuʔaƛ (board)
ƛa·ƛa·ḱit (chewing gum)	ƛa·yi·k (generous)

This is a barred lambda: ƛ. It expresses a sound like t and l pronounced together as if they were one sound. If the word "clean" started with a t, to give "tlean", the tl would be like a Nakah ƛ.

Practice these words beginning with ƛ :

ƛaškatuk (stiff)	ƛata-wac̓ak (paddle)
ƛułu (good)	ƛadit (wedge)

This is a glottalized barred lambda: ƛ̓. Again we have the glottal action during articulation, giving the tl sound a popped effect.

Here are some Makah practice words with ƛ̓:

ƛ̓upač (root)

ƛ̓uča·b (mussel)

ƛ̓ipsi·ka·d (barnacle)

ƛ̓aba·s (fat)

This letter m represents the same sound as in the English alphabet, for example the m in moose and in moon. This is a very rare sound in Makah.

grizzly bear

na·ni

The letter n stands for the same sound in both English and Makah. It too is a rare sound in the Makah language, but here is one example: na·ni (grizzly bear)

The letter p, as in the English alphabet, represents the sound heard in the words pot, pet and pop.

pɪkuˑʔu basket

Here are some Makah words beginning with p :

pi̓cup	(inner cedar bark)	pisatuk	(moving)
pu-yak	(gun)	pu-k̓u-l	(small crab)

This letter is a glottalized p: ṗ. It has the same p sound as before but again with the added emphasis of glottalization.

Makah practice words :

ṗaṗ?es (cranberry)

ṗu?up (moss)

ṗaca·bis (foam)

ṗitukuɬ (soft cloth)

The letter q̓ represents a sound which is similar to a k but is pronounced farther back in the throat, more like the sound of c̓ in c̓ar and the c̓ in c̓aught.

eye qaliʔi

Here are some Makah words for practice :

qata	(hard or tough)	qacpa	(left side)
qalupqi	(nettle)	qačak	(pin, needle)

The glottalized q, q̓, is a q made with the extra emphasis of glottalization.

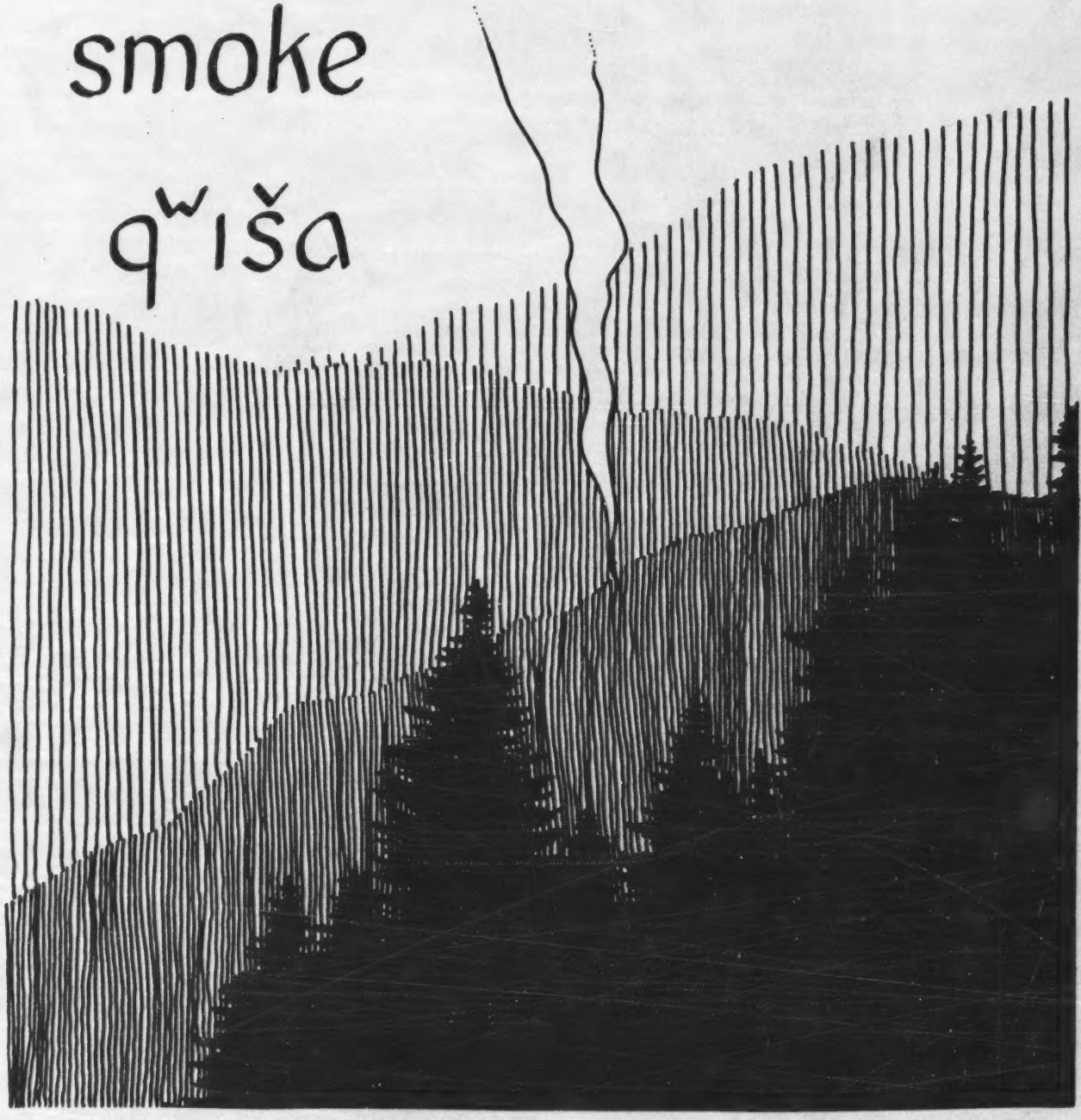
dog

q̓ɪdɪ·ɬ

Here are some words beginning with q̓ :

q̓iq̓iči̓ (eyebrow)	q̓u·y (medicine)
q̓iɬi·ʔi·t (feather)	q̓iʔaɬuk (crying)

This letter, the rounded q: q̓ʷ is made the same as the q except that it is produced with rounded lips, similar to the English qu in queer but farther back in the throat.



Here are practice words with q̓ʷ:

q̓ʷi-ʔiqs	(in-law)	q̓ʷacaɬ	(attractive)
q̓ʷaq̓ʷaċa-yad	(sounds good)	q̓ʷiššac	(pipe)

The rounded glottalized q, ƛ̓ʷ, is a q made with rounded lips and a glottal pop.

Here are some Makah words which contain q̓ʷ:

q̓ʷiča·k	(rotten)	q̓ʷitya·t	(mink)
q̓ʷiƛa	(Koitlah Point)	q̓ʷabaqak	(green/yellow)

The s stands for the same sound in Makah and English.

su-suk swimming

Practice these words which contain s :

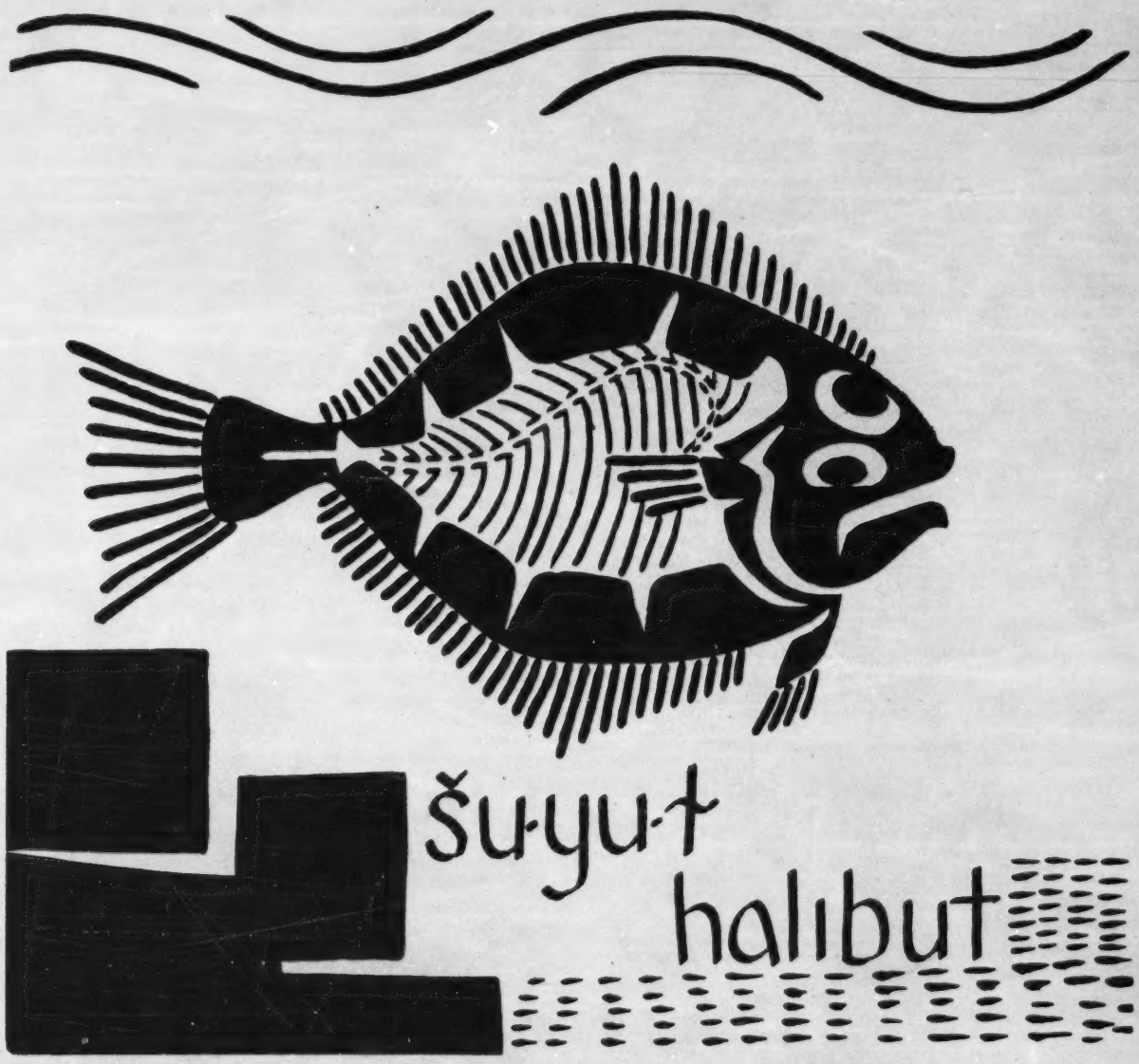
saba-s (shark)

siqi-da-k (cooking)

susutkiƛ (shaking hands)

si-ka (sailing)

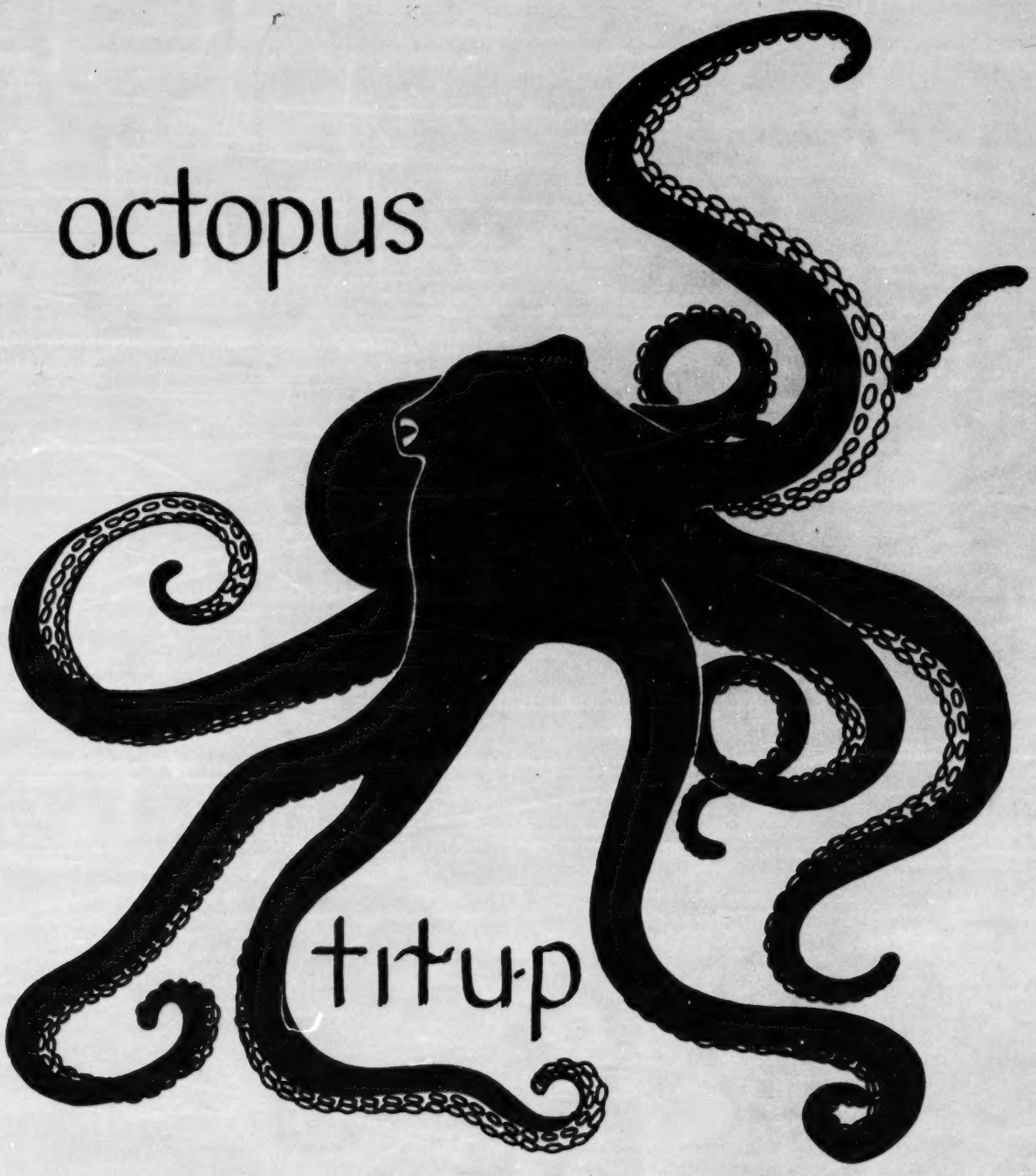
The wedge s, š, represents a sound like sh in English. Examples are the sh in shoe and shy.



Here are Makah practice words with š :

šuč̓as (tree)	šuʔuk (come here!)
šiqi·wad (dress)	šačaqat (sharp)

The symbol t stands for the same sound in Makah as in English. It is the sound of t in tall and tickle.



Practice words:

takya·y (oldest brother)

taqšiƛ (squeeze)

tibu·t (skunk cabbage)

tuƛał (salt, ocean)

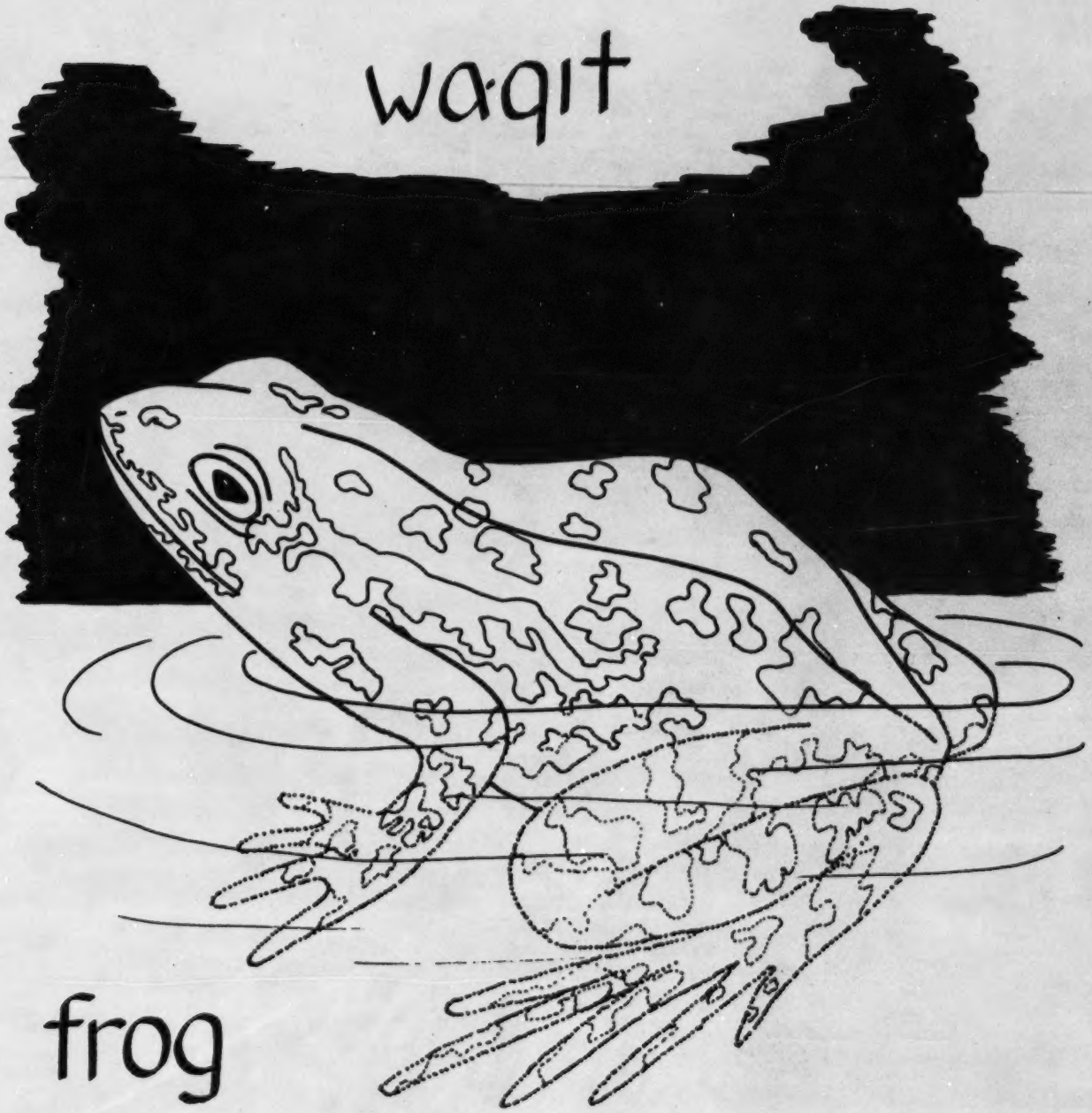
The glottal t, ṫ, is a t with the added emphasis of a glottal stop and release.

ṫaši
road

Practice words:

ṫiṫuł	(wet)	ṫuṫupčas	(rabbit)
ṫa-qa	(straight)	ṫaḵʷas	(gills)

The w in Makah is similar to the w in English. It stands for the first sound in the words wild and water.



Here are some words beginning with w :

wadiš (skirt)	wikwi-ya-k (boy)
wičqqi (bald)	wiq̓is (dirty, bad)

The symbol x̲ in Makah stands for a sound like an h in English but is made with the tongue raised in the middle.

xadʔak
woman

Makah practice words :

xutac	(bucket)	xadʔawišč	(girl)
xutaqsix̲	(taking a drink)	wipaxbis	(nuisance)

The rounded x, x̲ʷ, is an x sound made with rounded lips.

xʷakšiɬ
swelling up

Practice words :

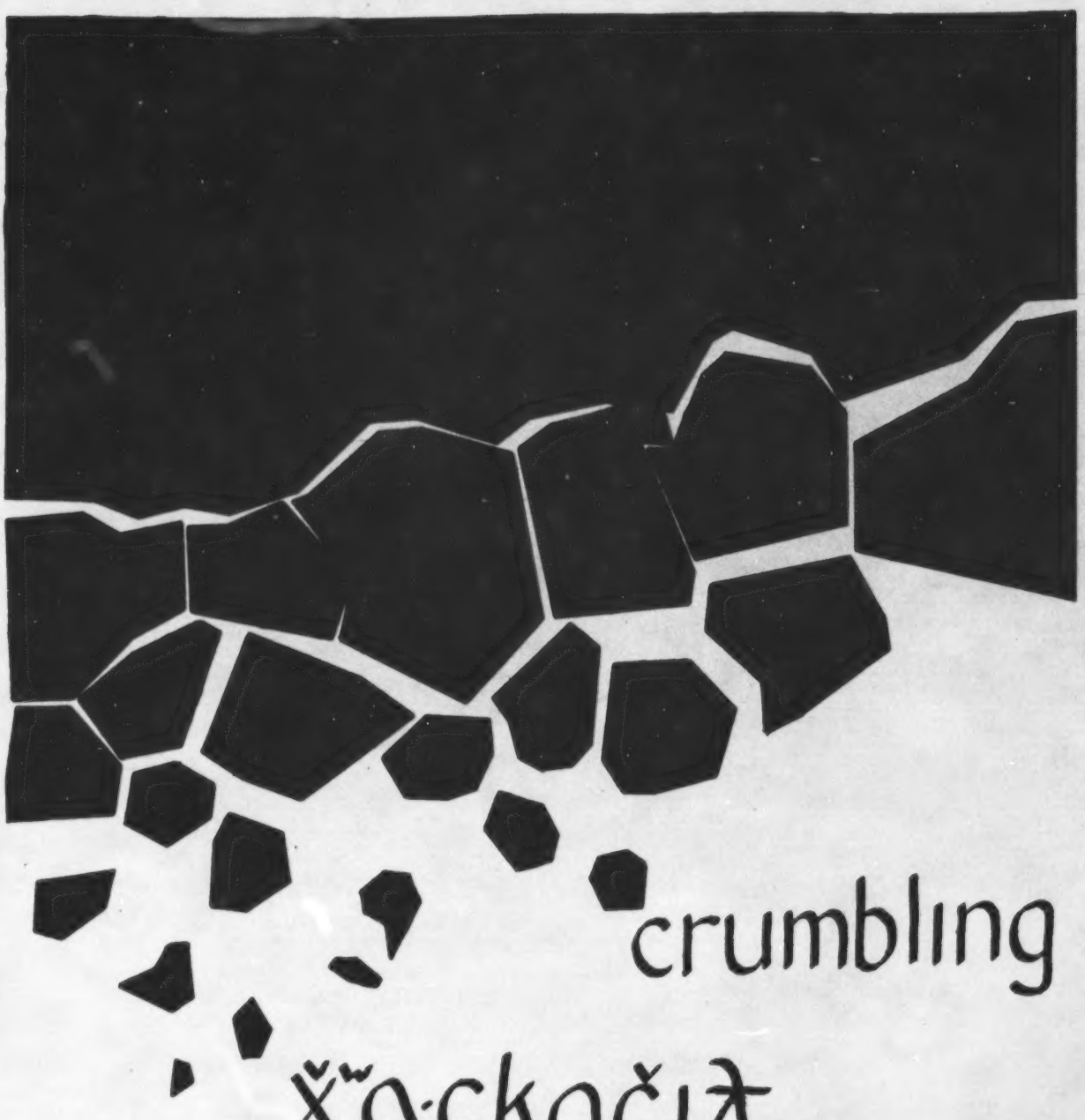
xʷakšiɬ	(swell up)	xʷaḱas	(hill)
q̓atxʷak	(curled up)	caxʷapɬ	(round)

The wedge x, x̌, stands for a sound like the x only made even farther back in the throat.

Practice words :

x̌a?ałapix̌ (steamer clam)	x̌a·ya (far)
x̌ax̌apx̌t (lecturing)	x̌aša·bis (bone)

The rounded wedge x, x̌ʷ, is made like the wedge x but with the lips rounded.

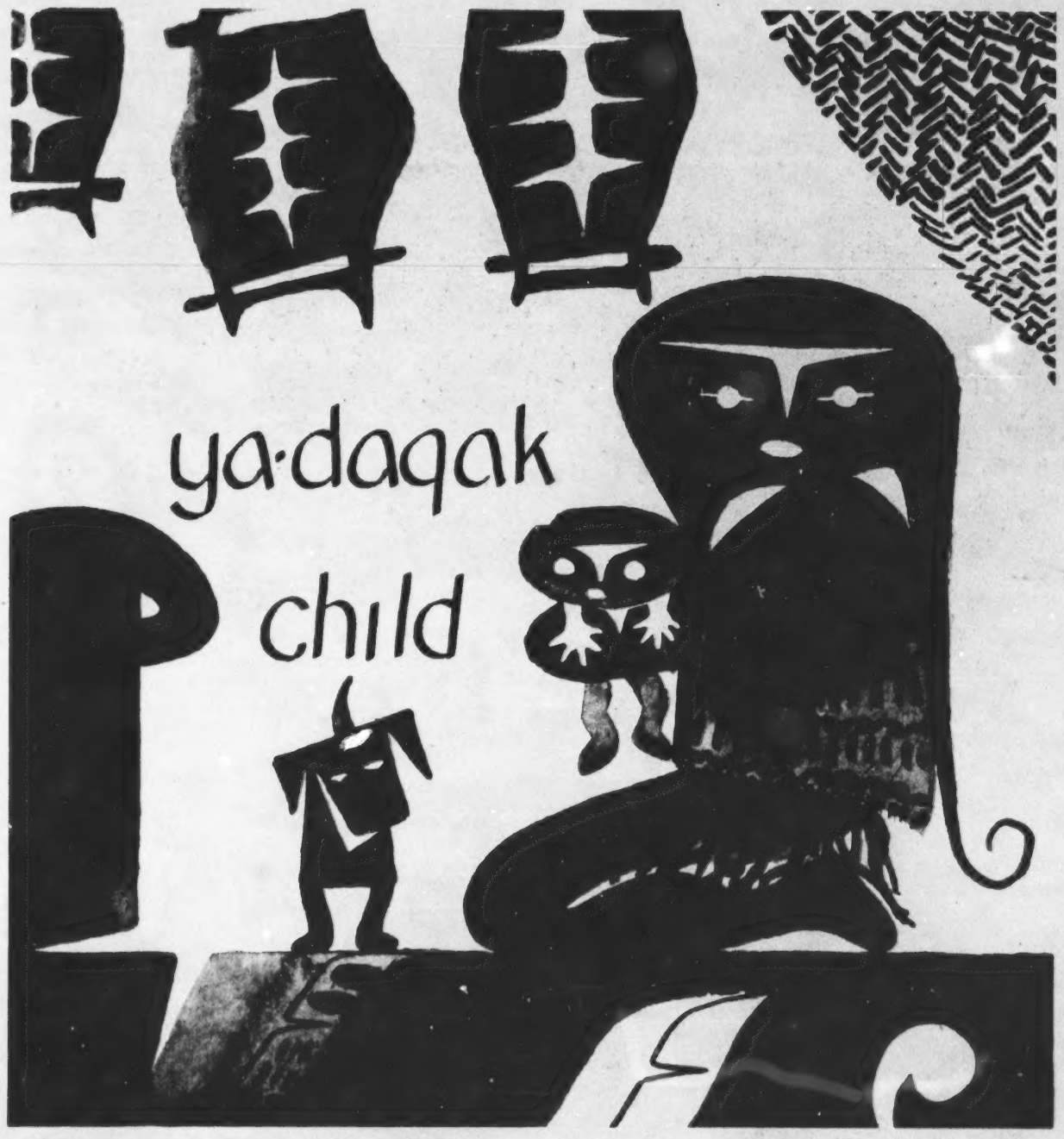


Makah practice words :

ʔi·ʔix̌ʷ (big) ƛax̌ʷ (ten)

wi·qsiʔx̌ʷadiʔ (sounds windy)

The y in Makah stands for the same sound as the y in the English words yellow and year.



Here are Makah practice words with y in them :

yučí·ṫiɬ	(narrow)	yuyubaǩ	(wrong)
yu·y	(morning)	yu·xɬap	(floating)

English-Makah Word List

ankle	kala·kali
ashamed	k̓a?ak
attractive	qʷacaɬ
backing up	kʷa·?uk
bad	wiq̓is
bald	wičqqi
bark, inner cedar	p̓icup
barnacle	x̌ipsi·k̓a·d
basket	piku·?u
bear, grizzly	na·ni
bending over	kʷa·?ap
big	?i·?i·x̌ʷ
bird	huktu·p
black	tupkuk
blanket	hiti·d
board	ɬu?aɬ
bone	x̌aša·bis
bow (bow and arrow)	bistati
bow (canoe)	hitakʷad
boy	wikwi·ya·k
boy, poor	k̓ʷa·čib
brother, oldest	takya·y
bucket	xutac
canoe	č̓apac
chewing gum	ɬa·ɬa·k̓it
chicken	?aha·ha
child	ya·daqak
clam, butter	č̓i?ic
clam, steamer	x̌a?aɬapix̌
cloth, soft	p̓iɬukuɬ
come here	su?uk
cooking	siqi·da·k
cow	bu·sbu·s
crab, small	pu·kx̌u·ɬ
cranberry	p̓ap̓?es
crow	č̓a·q̓a·du?u
crumbling	x̌ʷa·ckačix̌
crying	q̓i?aɬuk
curled up	q̓atxʷak
digging clams	č̓i·ta
dirty	wiq̓is
dog	q̓idi·x̌
dress	šiqi·wad
drink, taking a	xutaqsix̌
dripping	čax̌čax̌
dolphin	c̓iɬk̓u·?
eagle	?akwati·d
ear	p̓ip̓i?i
eating	ha?uk
elderberry	cikyey
eye	qali?i
eyebrow	q̓iq̓ič̓
far	x̌a·ya
fat, blubber	x̌aba·s
feather	q̓iɬi·?i·t
fire	?ada·k
floating	yu·xɬap
fly (insect)	ba·ckʷa·d
foam	p̓aca·bis
frog	wa·q̓it
full	cuba
generous	ɬa·yi·k
gills	t̓ak̓ʷas
girl	xad?awšč
good	x̌uɬu
green/yellow	q̓ʷabaqak
gun	pu·yak
hair, short	buta·s
halibut	šu·yu·ɬ
hand	lu·lapi

hard, tough	qata
heart	čape·ʔi
hiding	ʔapta
hill	x̌ʷakʼas
hook, fish	kʼuyak
hook, halibut	čibu·d
horse	kiwta·l, kibta·l
house	baʔas
hummingbird	kʼʷiti·kʼʷitš
in-law	qʷi·ʔiqs
killer whale	kawad
Koitlah Point	qʼʷix̌a
lamb	libi·tu
lecturing	x̌ax̌apx̌t
left side	qacpa
light	lakčuk
lightning	lakča·la·kč
medicine	qʼu·y
meow	ma·w ma·w
mink	qʼʷitya·t
moon, sun	daka
morning	yu·y
moss	pʼuʔup
mountain	duči?i
mouse	cʼibicʼibi
moving	pisatuk
mussel	x̌učʼa·b
narrow	yuči·tʼiɬ
Neah Bay	di·ya
needle	qačʼak
nettle	qalupqi
nine	cʼakwa·sub
nuisance	wipaxbis
ocean	tupʼaɬ
octopus	tiɬu·p
oil, whale/seal	kʼatuk
one	cʼakwa·ʔak
onion, wild	kʷa·dis
paddle	x̌ata·wačʼak
pin	qačʼak
pipe	qʷišsac
porpoise	kʼʷakʼʷʔaqx̌i
quarter (25 cents)	kʷa·ta
rabbit	tʼutʼupčʼas
rat	cʼibicʼibi
raven	x̌u·kšu·d
right side	čaba·cpa
ring	kʼakʼa·bakdukub
road	tʼaši
root	x̌upʼač
rotten	qʼʷiča·k
round	caxʷapɬ
rug	ɬiciɬub
running	ha·ha·cʼic
sailing	si·ka
salmon, coho	cu·wit
salt	tupʼaɬ
sawing	či·tči·t
scratching	cu·ccu·c
seeing	dačʔoɬ
shaking hands	susutkix̌
shark	saba·s
sharp	šačaqaɬ
shawl	lišo·l
short	di·cʼ
singing	dudu·k
skirt	wadiš
skunk cabbage	tibu·t
sleeping	weʔič
small	kʷaʔak
smoke	qʷiša
snake	ɬi·ʔiʔi
snake, small	kaca·yak
snow	kʼʷisi
son	ʔiki
sounds good	qʷaqʷacʼa·yad
sounds windy	wi·qsiʔx̌ʷadiʔ
squeeze	taqšix̌

stiff	ƛaškatuk
stomach	q̓uso·t̓i
store	bakowas
straight	t̓a·qa
sun, moon	daka
sweet	čabas
swell up	xʷakšiƛ
swimming	su·suk
ten	ƛaχʷ
thief	ku·wi·yik
tongue	laka·yak
tough, hard	qata
trade	χu?uya·
tree	šuc̓as
wagon	c̓i·kc̓i·k
water	č̓a?ak
wedge	ƛadit
wet	t̓iɬaɬ
white	ƛ̓isuk
wind	wi·qsi
woman	xad?ak
wood	?atkse·?i
work	babuyak
wrong	yuyubaχ
yellow/green	q̓ʷabaqak